

BOAT REGISTRATION AND TITLE

Additional information as well as the latest updates and answers to frequently asked questions are available at the Florida Department of Highway Safety's Internet address @ <http://www.hsmv.state.fl.us/dmv/faqboat.html>

As an agent for the DHSMV, the Tax Collector is responsible for providing the necessary service and record-keeping procedures used in processing boat titles and registrations. All Florida boats with motors, including PWCs (personal watercrafts), must be titled, registered, and issued a decal, which must be affixed to the PORT (left) side of the boat.

Exemptions from Titling in Florida

1. Boats owned by the United States Government;
2. Non motor-powered boats less than 16 feet in length;
3. Federally documented boats;
4. Boats used exclusively on private lakes and ponds;
5. Boats already covered by a number (pursuant to the federally approved numbering system) of another state, provided that such boat shall not be located in this State for a period of 90 consecutive days;
6. Amphibious boats for which title is issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles;
7. Boats used solely for demonstration, testing or sales by a registered dealer or manufacturer; and/or
8. Boats owned and operated by the State or a governmental subdivision.

Exemptions from Registering in Florida

1. Boats used exclusively on private lakes and ponds;
2. Boats used exclusively as ship's lifeboats; and
3. A non-motor powered boats - less than 16 feet in length.

PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING FLORIDA BOAT TITLE

The owner of a *new* boat must have the manufacturer's certificate of origin (MCO) completed by the seller (dealer/store). The MCO is the "birth certificate" for the boat.

For a *used* boat, the new owner must present us with the title. If the boat was previously registered in a state that did **not** issue a title, the registration **and** a notarized bill of sale signed by the owner must be provided. (Note: A registration can never replace a title for a boat that was registered in Florida.) New owners have 30 days to transfer the title or they will be subject to a \$10 delinquent fee. Note: on *Florida* boat titles, notarization is **NO** longer required (unless it's to satisfy a lien on the front or a place is present in the dealer reassignment and application sections). All new owners must be present to sign the title application form and to present valid photo identification.

Costs to Title a Boat

Initial Florida title application cost is	\$8.25
Florida title transfer	\$8.25
Out-of-State application cost	\$12.25

NOTE: Recording of liens cost an additional \$1.00 per lien.

Sales Tax: If applicable, six percent (6%) state sales tax and optional county discretionary sales surtax must be paid (see page 62). Manatee County has an additional .5% (½ %) discretionary sales surtax that is collected on the first \$5,000.00 of the purchase price.

Getting another copy of your Florida boat title

By visiting the office, you can apply for a duplicate copy of your boat title. The cost is \$9.00. Please remember, once a duplicate title is issued, the original title is null and void.

Fast Title

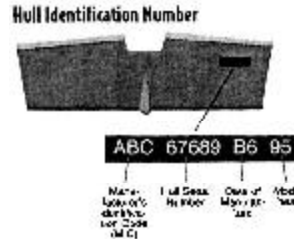
You can elect to have your boat, vehicle and mobile home title printed while you wait, versus waiting 7-10 days for the title to arrive via the mail from Tallahassee. This optional fast title service costs an additional \$5.00 for boats; Vehicles/Mobile Homes are \$10.00 (Not available for all types of transactions.)

Titling of Dinghies

A dinghy, not in the water, does not have to be titled/registered if it is used for emergency purposes. *WARNING: the FMP and other law enforcement agencies routinely ticket dinghy owners who are caught using their unregistered dinghy to go from shore to their boat.* Since most dinghies have engines, they would have to be titled and REGISTERED, regardless of the length of the craft or regardless of the fact that they may be rubberized rafts.

Hull Identification Number Verifications

Prior to accepting an application for title, the Tax Collector's Office will verify that a 12 digit hull identification number is shown on the application of a boat 1972 or newer. If a 12 digit hull identification number is not shown, the customer must provide the Tax Collector's Office with a certified pencil tracing of the hull number, which will be attached to the title application and sent to the State. The Florida Marine Patrol may be required to verify the Hull Identification Number .



ANNUAL BOAT REGISTRATIONS

Registration fees for commercial boats and recreational boats are based on boat lengths. Boat registrations expire midnight of the registered owner's birthday, except for company-owned boats which expire June 30th. Recreational and commercial registrations are issued the same type decal. It is strongly recommended that all boat owners renew their registrations by mail, which costs less than renewing in person in our office. To apply for a duplicate registration, you must provide the boat FL# and valid photo identification is required. A \$2.75 fee will be charged.

Duplicate Decals

If the decal is current, the boat owner may apply for a duplicate decal at any county Tax Collector's Office. The owner must submit their old registration or provide a signed, notarized affidavit certifying that the old registration has been lost or destroyed. Valid photo identification is required. A \$6.25 fee will be charged.

Boats Registered in Another State Visiting Florida

Florida recognizes valid registration certificates and numbers issued to visiting boat owners by other states for a period of 90 days. An owner who intends to use his boat in Florida longer than 90 days must register it with a county tax collector. However, he may retain the out-of-state registration number if he plans to return to his home state within a reasonable period of time. The out-of-state boat owner who plans to remain permanently in Florida must so advise the county tax collector. The boat owner will receive a Florida registration certificate number to replace those issued by the state of former residence. The out-of-state registration and certificate of title, if issued, must be surrendered to the tax collector.

Changing the Classification of Your Boat from Commercial to Recreational or Recreational to Commercial

You will need to surrender the current registration. The titled owner will need to sign the appropriate form that is available at the Tax Collector’s Office. The cost is \$6.25..

Registration of Dinghies

A dinghy, not in the water, does not have to be registered if it is used for emergency purposes. *WARNING: the FMP and other law enforcement agencies routinely ticket dinghy owners who are caught using their unregistered dinghy to go from shore to their boat..* Since most dinghies have engines, they would have to be registered and TITLED, regardless of the length of the craft or regardless of the fact that they may be rubberized rafts.

Proper Location to display the Florida registration number (FL#)

The registration number issued to an undocumented boat is to be painted or attached to both sides of the bow (forward half) of the boat and must be in block letters and numerals at least three inches high. The FL# must read from left to right, must contrast in color with the hull and be in legible condition at all times. The prefix and suffix must be separated from the numerals by a space equal to the width of the digits. Example: FL 0000 AA. The Florida registration number issued to a boat is permanent and remains with the boat as long as it is operated or stored in this State, even though its ownership may change.



TYPES OF REGISTRATIONS

1) RECREATIONAL REGISTRATION - DECAL

The most common registration is for the “average” recreational vessel. (See also sojourners, commercial boats, documented boats and antique boats.)



Costs for a Recreational Registration in the State of Florida for one or two years

1 Year	2 Year	Description
\$ 15.50	\$ 31.00	Boats under 12' & motorized canoes
\$ 31.63	\$ 63.26	Boats 12' or over to 15'11"
\$ 50.38	\$100.76	Boats 16' or over to 25'11"
\$124.63	\$249.26	Boats 26' or over to 39'11"
\$198.88	\$397.76	Boats 40' or over to 64'11"
\$236.30	\$472.76	Boats 65' or over to 109'11"
\$291.88	\$583.76	Boats 110' or more

* Includes additional county vessel registration fee imposed by the Manatee Board of County Commissioners effective October 1, 2006

2) SOJOURNERS

The State of Florida recognizes valid registration certificates and numbers from another state issued to visiting boaters for a period of 90 days on recreational boats only. A non-resident boater who intends to use his craft in Florida longer than 90 days must register it at the county tax collector's office.

3) COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION

The owners of commercial boats must register them with the county tax collector's office. Procedures and fees are the same as on recreational boats. There is a \$50.00 additional fee for non-residents and aliens. Contact the Tax Collector's Office for more details and specific costs for registration fees.

4) DOCUMENTED REGISTRATION

All boats five (5) net tons or more meeting the criteria of a commercial boat as defined by the U.S. Coast Guard (U.S.C.G.) must be federally documented. Recreational yachts five (5) net tons or more may be federally documented or titled at the option of the owner(s).

Steps to Document Your Boat

You must contact the U.S. Coast Guard National Vessel Documentation Center and they will instruct you as to what is necessary to make application. The phone number in West Virginia is 1-800-799-8362

Waiting for Documentation Paperwork to be returned

A registration stamped "TEMPORARY" will be issued by the Tax Collector's Office. The boat owner(s) must come to the Tax Collector's Office with a letter from the U.S. Coast Guard showing application for documentation has been filed and is pending. Form HSMV87244 will be completed and must be signed and notarized by all owners; payment of all applicable sales taxes and registration fees, which is determined by the length of the boat, and a \$50.00 non-resident commercial boat fee, if applicable will be collected. To obtain your "PERMANENT" registration you will need to bring to the Tax Collector's Office your temporary registration, the original documentation papers from the U.S. Coast Guard and \$2.75.

Registering a Previously Documented Boat in Florida

In order to obtain a Florida registration for a documented boat, an applicant must complete an application to register a non-titled boat; this form is obtained at the Tax Collector's Office. This form must be signed by all the owners listed on the documentation papers. A copy of the boat's documentation papers must be furnished as well as payment of sales tax or a valid receipt indicating that the sales tax was paid in an amount equal to the established percentage in Florida. NOTE: The sales tax rate may be higher if you reside in a county having an approved discretionary tax.

Displaying a Decal on a Documented Boat

The decal may be affixed to a window or the windshield on the port (left) side of the boat.

5) ANTIQUE REGISTRATION

An antique boat is at least 30 years old, used only for noncommercial purposes, and powered by the boat's original type power plant. These boats may receive from the department an antique boat decal.



Obtaining an Antique Boat Decal

This type of decal comes directly from the State. A written request must be submitted with a copy of the boats most current certificate of boat registration issued by a county tax collector in the State *and HSMV Form 87243 signed by the registered owner*. This document shall certify that said boat meets or exceeds the standard for an antique boat. Effective 10/1/97, there is no annual fee for the decal. Annual reg. fees of \$7.00 still apply. Once an antique decal is issued to a boat, it remains current for the life of the boat provided the boat continues to conform to the definition of an antique boat. The decal shall be placed within 3 inches of the registration number which shall be affixed on the forward half of the hull.

MISCELLANEOUS BOAT TITLE/REGISTRATION ISSUES

Homemade Boats

A boat assembled from a manufacturer's kit or constructed from an unfinished manufactured hull shall be considered to be a homemade boat, provided such a boat is not required to have a hull identification number assigned by the United States Coast Guard.

An initial application for the registration and titling of a homemade boat must be filed by the boat owner with the county tax collector's office. If the boat is less than 16 feet in length, the boat owner shall submit to the county tax collector DMV Form 82040, along with a Statement of Builder Form 87002, (these forms are obtained at the Tax Collector's Office or can be printed from our website www.taxcollector.com). Upon receipt of the application, the department may require a visual inspection of the boat to ensure that it meets the legal definition of a "homemade boat". If a boat is 16 feet or more in length, the owner shall be required to contact the nearest regional office of the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission to arrange for a physical inspection of the boat. At the time of inspection, the owner of the homemade boat shall be required to submit an executed Statement of Builder or Builder's Certificate to the inspecting officer. Upon the satisfactory completion of the inspection, the inspection officer shall provide the owner of the homemade boat with a executed Certificate of Inspection. Once the boat owner has this form completed, you will submit it to the county tax collector along with the other forms already mentioned. For more information, call the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission at 1-888-404-3922.

Titling and Registering an "old boat never before registered"

An Application for Initial Boat Certificate of Title Form 82040 must be accompanied by:

1. An affidavit signed by the boat owner stating the reason the boat was never previously registered.
2. A Certified Pencil Tracing of the Hull ID#, or an Affidavit of Diligent Search if a Hull ID# cannot be found.
3. Payment of sales tax, or a Bill of Sale evidencing payment.

Titling and Registering an “old boat never before registered”, *that has been sold prior to initial registration and titling*

An Application for Initial Boat Certificate of Title Form 82040 must be accompanied by:

1. An affidavit signed by the Seller stating the reason the boat was never previously registered.
2. A Certified Pencil Tracing of the Hull ID#, or an Affidavit of Diligent Search if a Hull ID# cannot be found.
3. A Notarized Bill of Sale from the Seller to the Buyer.
4. Payment of sales tax, or evidence of payment on the Bill of Sale.

Military Personnel and their Boat Registration

Out-of-state registration certificates and numbers for boats owned by military personnel on active duty in Florida are valid in Florida until their expiration date, after which time the boat must be registered and titled in Florida in order to be operated on State water.

SALES & DISCRETIONARY TAXES

The State sales tax in Manatee County is 6% of the purchase price less any trade. A discretionary sales surtax may also be imposed depending on your county of residence (see page 62). Manatee County has an additional .5% (½%) discretionary sales surtax that is collected on the first \$5,000.00 of the purchase price. For more information on Florida sales tax contact the Florida Department of Revenue at 1-800-FLA-DOR1.

Sales Tax On Outboard Motors

When you purchase the boat, outboard motor and trailer together from an individual you will not have to pay sales tax on the outboard motor if you can provide an itemized and notarized bill of sale signed by seller. You will pay sales tax on the boat and trailer. (This exemption does not apply if you purchase the motor from a dealer or store.)

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Manatee Decal Donation

By marking the appropriate box on your boat's registration renewal and adding the appropriate amount to your registration total, you will help protect the endangered manatee and you will also earn yourself a beautiful manatee decal. The funds collected will go to programs to protect the manatee. A minimum contribution of \$5.00 entitles you to the manatee decal.



Sea Turtle Decal Donation

By marking the appropriate box on your boat's registration renewal and adding the appropriate amount to your registration total you will help protect the endangered sea turtle and you will also earn yourself a beautiful sea turtle decal. The funds collected will go to programs to protect the sea turtle. A minimum contribution of \$5.00 entitles you to the sea turtle decal.



BOAT INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Proof of insurance is not required on the boat or the trailer.

BOAT TRAILERS

Florida issues only a registration to boat trailers that weigh under 2000 pounds. If the trailer weighs 2000 pounds or more, a title must be issued. The empty weight of the trailer will determine how much you are charged to register your trailer. When purchasing a boat trailer from an individual, always obtain a copy of their old registration, which will show the empty weight, and a Bill of Sale. If they do not have an old registration to give you, you will need to obtain a Bill of Sale and have the trailer weighed at a certified weigh station.

Area Weigh Stations

County Landfill – 748-5543
3333 Lena Road, Bradenton

LKQ Self Service Auto Parts - 753-2887
1880 63rd Avenue, Bradenton

CRR - Whitfield Site - 756-6202
3025 Whitfield Ave., Sarasota

Port Manatee 722-6621
300 Regal Cruise Way #100, Palmetto

NOTE: Please call to verify hours of operation and any cost to provide this service, before you decide which location is best for you.

BOAT DEALERS

Any person authorized by the Department of Revenue to buy, sell, resell, or otherwise distribute boats in Florida is considered a dealer. The DOR telephone number is 1-800-FLA-DOR1. There is no agency that specifically handles complaints against boat dealers. Consumers can try contacting the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Complaint Line at 1-800-435-7352.

Purchasing a Dealer Decal to Demonstrate a Boat by a Dealer

The dealer must submit a copy of its current sales tax certificate of registration from the Department of Revenue, a copy of its current commercial, occupational business license or a notarized affidavit if a license is not required based on location, and complete Form 87244 together with a fee of \$45.50. At this time, a Florida registration number and decal will be issued to the dealer.

Displaying Dealer Decal and Registration Numbers on Boats

The decal issued to a dealer shall be affixed with the awarded registration number to a removable sign to be temporarily but firmly mounted upon or attached to the boat being demonstrated, tested or promoted.

BOAT RAMP LOCATIONS IN MANATEE COUNTY

Braden River Ramp	Braden River & S.R. 64
Kingfish Ramp	S.R. 64 in Holmes Beach on Anna Maria Island
Lake Manatee	Lake Manatee State Park on S.R. 64
Palma Sola Causeway	Palma Sola Bay & S.R. 64
Warner's Bayou Ramp	59th Street and Riverview Blvd., Bradenton
Ft. Hamer	End of Ft. Hamer Road, Parrish
Highland Shores Ramp	End of Highland Shores Dr., Ellenton
Coquina Boat Ramp	Coquina Beach, Bradenton Beach
Riverside Park	801 Riverside Dr., Palmetto
63rd Street Park	East end of 63rd Street, Holmes Beach

